

Workers Demand a 10-Hour Day

New York Working Men's Party



OVERVIEW

The New York Working Men's Party, made up of skilled craft workers and factory workers, existed from 1829 to 1830. Their demand for a 10-hour day appeared in the *New York Morning Courier* newspaper on April 30, 1829.

GUIDED READING As you read, consider the following questions:

- How does this proclamation call upon the basic rights as stated in the Declaration of Independence to support its position?
 - What actions does this proclamation propose?
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Resolved, that the Creator has made all equal.

Resolved, that in the first formation of government, no man gives up to others his original right of soil and becomes a smith, a weaver, a builder, or other mechanic or laborer without receiving a guaranty that reasonable toil shall enable him to live as comfortably as others.

Resolved, that the rights of the rich, or, in other words, the employer, are not greater now than they were then.

Resolved, that the rights of the poor or the employed are not less.

Resolved, that those who now undertake to exact an excessive number of hours of toil for a days work are aggressors upon the rights of their fellow citizens, invaders of their happiness, and justly obnoxious to the indignation of every honest man in the community.

Resolved, that we will not labor for any man more than the just and reasonable time of ten hours a day; and that if our employers are determined to make the experiment, which can longest be suspended, business with them, or with us the supply of the wants of nature for ourselves and families, we will hold them responsible, as we also hold ourselves, to the good sense of our fellow citizens, for the wrongs we may suffer at their hands.

Resolved, that a committee of fifty persons be appointed to devise the means of assisting those who may require it in consequence of fulfilling the foregoing resolutions and that they make report at a future meeting.

Resolved, that the same committee be authorized and instructed to call another meeting as soon as they shall deem it expedient.

Resolved, that the names of those who shall hereafter work more than ten hours a day, or require or receive it, shall be published in the public papers as soon as they shall be ascertained.